

28. (newly added) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dispenser comprises a patient-accessible self-service medical item dispenser.

29. (newly added) The method according to claim 2 and further comprising

(f) prior to (d), receiving input from a patient through at least one input device in operative connection with the computer and the dispenser.

30. (newly added) The method according to claim 29 wherein (f) includes receiving dispense request input from the patient corresponding to at least one medical item prescribed for use by the patient.

31. (newly added) The method according to claim 30 wherein (f) further includes receiving a payment from the patient corresponding to the at least one medical item requested in the dispense request input.

32. (newly added) The method according to claim 31 wherein the at least one input device includes a card reader device, wherein the card reader device is in operative connection with the computer, and further comprising

(g) reading a credit or debit card with the card reader device, and charging an account associated with the credit or debit card.

33. (newly added) The method according to claim 31 wherein the payment comprises a co-payment, wherein (f) includes receiving the co-payment from the patient corresponding to the at least one medical item requested in the dispense request input.

34. (newly added) A method comprising

- (a) storing in at least one data store in operative connection with at least one computer, data representative of each of

at least one patient,

at least one medical item prescribed for use by the at least one patient, and

at least one medical item stored in a patient-accessible self service medical item dispenser apparatus, wherein the dispenser apparatus is operative to receive at least one input from the at least one patient;

- (b) receiving at least one input through at least one input device of the dispenser apparatus, wherein the at least one input includes a request to dispense to a first patient at least one medical item prescribed for use by the first patient;

- (c) responsive to the request to dispense, instructing the dispenser apparatus to dispense the requested at least one medical item to the first patient;
- (d) verifying with the dispenser apparatus that the requested at least one medical item was dispensed;
- (e) responsive to the verification, including in the data store, data linking the verified dispensed at least one medical item to the first patient.

CI  
Contd

35. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 wherein (e) further includes

responsive to the verification, including in the data store, data linking each of

the first patient,

the dispensed at least one medical item, and

location of dispensing the at least one medical item.

36. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 and further comprising

- (f) receiving another at least one input through the at least one input device of the dispenser apparatus, wherein the another at least one input includes a request to dispense to a second patient at least one medical item prescribed for use by the second patient;
- (g) responsive to the request to dispense to the second patient, instructing the dispenser apparatus to dispense the requested at least one medical item to the second patient.

37. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 wherein the dispenser apparatus includes at least a first dispenser and a second dispenser, wherein (b) includes receiving dispense request input from the first patient through an input device in operative connection with the first dispenser, and further comprising

- (f) receiving dispense request input from the second patient through an input device in operative connection with the second dispenser;
- (g) responsive to (f), instructing the second dispenser to dispense to the second patient at least one medical item prescribed for use by the second patient;

38. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 and further comprising

(f) prior to (c), receiving with the dispenser apparatus a patient payment input.

39. (newly added) The method according to claim 38 and further comprising receiving a patient payment corresponding to the at least one medical item requested in the dispense request input.

40. (newly added) The method according to claim 39 wherein the patient payment comprises a patient co-payment, and further comprising receiving the patient co-payment corresponding to the at least one medical item requested in the dispense request input.

01  
Contd  
41. (newly added) The method according to claim 38 wherein the dispenser apparatus includes a card reader device, wherein the card reader device is in operative connection with the computer, and further comprising

(g) reading a credit or debit card with the card reader device, and further comprising charging an account associated with the credit or debit card.

42. (newly added) The method according to claim 38 wherein the dispenser apparatus includes a display screen, and further comprising

(g) prior to (c), displaying a payment amount to the patient with the display screen.

43. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 and further comprising

- (f) prior to (c), determining whether the at least one medical item corresponding to the dispense request input is available for dispensing from the dispenser apparatus.

44. (newly added) The method according to claim 34 wherein (d) further comprises at least one sensor in the dispenser apparatus transmitting at least one signal responsive to the at least one sensor sensing a passing of the requested at least one medical item, and (e) further comprises including in the data store verification of the dispensing of the at least one medical item.

45. (newly added) A method comprising

- (a) storing in at least one data store in operative connection with at least one computer, data representative of each of

a plurality of medical item storage locations in a patient-accessible self service medical item dispenser apparatus,

a plurality of types of medical items,

the type of medical item stored in each respective storage location,

at least one patient, and

at least one medical item type prescribed for use by the at least one patient;

- (b) receiving patient identification data from a patient through at least one input device of the dispenser apparatus;
- (c) receiving from the patient through the at least one input device a request to dispense at least one medical item type prescribed for use by the patient;
- (d) reading a credit or debit card with a card reader device of the dispenser apparatus;
- (e) charging an amount to an account associated with the credit or debit card, wherein the amount corresponds to a payment associated with the requested at least one medical item type;
- (f) instructing the dispenser apparatus to dispense to the patient the requested at least one medical item type;
- (g) dispensing from the dispenser apparatus to the patient the requested at least one medical item type, wherein the at least one medical item type is dispensed from at least one storage location holding the at least one medical item type;

(h) verifying with the dispenser apparatus that the requested at least one medical item type was dispensed to the patient, including at least one sensor in the dispenser apparatus transmitting at least one signal to the computer responsive to the at least one sensor sensing a passing of the requested at least one medical item type;

*CI  
could* (i) including in the at least one data store responsive to (h), data linking each of

the patient,

the verified dispensed at least one medical item type, and

location of the dispensing of the verified dispensed at least one medical item type.

---